

2011 - 2012 Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

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29	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Clarifying the City’s workforce development policies and investments in Office of Economic Development

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Clark; Conlin

Staff Analyst: Traci Ratzliff

Date		Total	SPUNC	SB	BH	SC	TR	JG	NL	RC	TB	MO
	Yes											
	No											
	Abstain											
	Absent											

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The City can and must play a critical role in preparing our youth and residents for postsecondary and career success to support an equitable and sustainable economic recovery. Individuals with postsecondary education and/or training have the best opportunity at earning a family supporting wage. Yet, over half of Washington’s working-age adults have no college degree. At the same time, it is projected that 67% of Washington State job vacancies will require post secondary degrees by 2018.

The City’s investment in this area has historically been in the Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI). SJI provides adult education and training to connect low-income/low-skill Seattle residents with jobs in growing local industry sectors that offer benefits and career advancement. In addition to skills training, SJI aligns support services –case management, housing, transportation, childcare, counseling, and college navigation – to support training completion, job placement and long-term job retention. These are important services provided to Seattle residents.

There are opportunities to leverage the City’s investment in SJI to achieve greater alignment and scale of postsecondary attainment programs. SJI has recently piloted a strategy that focuses its client services toward post-secondary attainment (including technical, community college, or university credential). This could require a future shift in how SJI deploys its services.

In addition, there are also a number of entities that are beginning to focus on post-secondary attainment, including the Gates Foundation, Seattle Foundation, Seattle Community College District, Workforce Development Council, SkillUp Washington, and others. The City could play an important role in advocating for increased coordination and collaboration across these multiple efforts that may benefit the City’s low-income working adults.

The Council requests that the Office of Economic Development (OED) complete the following work during 2011 related to clarifying the City's workforce development policies and investments:

1. Provide a report describing the program components and budget for the Seattle Job's Initiative's 2011 contract. Due Date: January 30, 2011
2. Provide a report describing OED's proposed workforce investment and approach for increasing regional alignment around workforce education and postsecondary attainment. The report should describe 1) the role of workforce development providers and investors other than SJI; and 2) how the City's investments can leverage and maximize outcomes for low-income adults. This should include the development of a common framework that includes goals, and methods to evaluate and measure progress. Due Date: April 2, 2011

Responsible Council Committee(s): Regional Development & Sustainability

Date Due to Council: various